

# **BLAKE'S 7 RADIO TIMES SERIES A**

ORIGINAL BROADCAST – 2 January to 27 March 1978

RADIO TIMES PREVIEW – Issue dated 17-23 December 1977

LETTERS – *MAGNIFICENT 'SEVEN'?* – Issue dated 4-10 February 1978

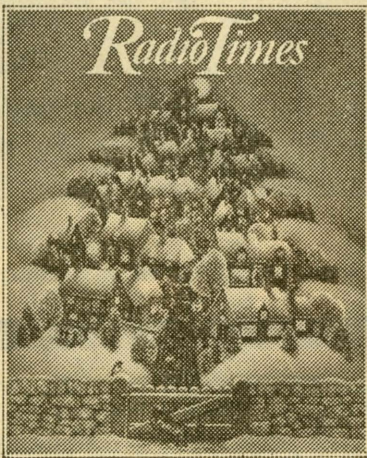
LETTERS – *TAKING TO BLAKE* – Issue dated 1-7 April 1978

LETTERS – *THE LAST OF BLAKE* – Issue dated 15-21 April 1978

ORAC – COMPILATION REPEAT – 27 December 1978

# NEXT WEEK

*Radio Times*



Our special double issue covers two weeks of BBCtv and Radio entertainment, from Christmas Eve right through into the New Year. Holiday stars include such top entertainers as Morecambe and Wise, Mike Yarwood, Ronnies Barker and Corbett and Eric Sykes, and in our front-of-the-book colour feature by Victoria Hainworth you can read about them and their particular music hall idols.

Also in RADIO TIMES: *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* . . . John Buchan and *The Three Hostages* . . . *Blake's Seven*, a new SF series . . . Washington from the inside.

And on BBCtv and Radio: Bob Hope's tribute to Bing, and *White Christmas* . . . Michael Horder as Scrooge . . . Nine Lessons and Carols from King's . . . *M\*A\*S\*H* – the original movie . . . The Queen's Christmas Broadcast . . . *Jim'll Fix It* . . . *The Good Old Days* . . . *Die Fledermaus* . . . Val Doonican . . . *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

**6.0-6.50** *New series*

## **Blake's Seven**

The first of a new space adventure series in 13 episodes

*The Way Back* by TERRY NATION

starring **Gareth Thomas**

**Sally Knyvette, Michael Keating**

Life in a domed city of the future is secure and comfortable but Roj Blake, a loyal citizen of the Federation, commits a Category 4 crime by venturing outside it. What he discovers is a nightmare that contradicts everything he knows and threatens an end to his life on Earth...

Blake.....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING

Bran Foster.....ROBERT BEATTY

Glynd.....ROBERT JAMES

Tarrant.....JEREMY WILKIN

Varon.....MICHAEL HALSEY

Maja.....PIPPA STEEL

Ravella.....GILLIAN BAILEY

Richie.....ALAN BUTLER

Arbiter.....MARGARET JOHN

Dr Havant.....PETER WILLIAMS

Alta Morag.....SUSAN FIELD

Clerk of Court.....RODNEY FIGARO

Computer operator

NIGEL LAMBERT

Guard.....GARRY MCDERMOTT

Series created by TERRY NATION

Script editor CHRIS BOUCHER

Designer MARTIN COLLINS

Producer DAVID MALONEY

Director MICHAEL E. BRIANT

FEATURE  
P114



*Blake (Gareth Thomas) up against a nightmare world. Blake's Seven: 6.0*



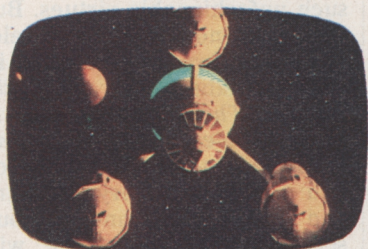
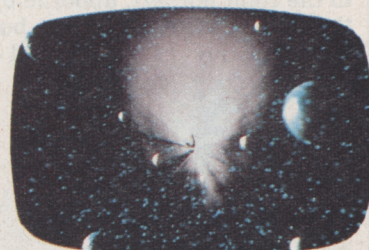
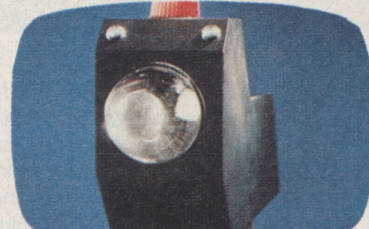
Blake's Seven roam a Universe of expanding physical boundaries and restrictive bureaucratic discipline. It's a corking yarn. CHRIS EVANS considers the conventions of SF – and the inventions of a series like this

## ROAMING A NAUGHTY UNIVERSE

IN CASE you haven't noticed, Space Opera is suddenly in fashion – and in fashion in a Big Way. And in case you don't know what Space Opera is, it's all to do with the rise and fall of Galactic Empires, monstrous spaceships, prison planets, androids (friendly or otherwise), interplanetary smuggling and incredibly beautiful girls who may be (a) brilliant telepaths, (b) Imperial Princesses or (c) both. If by now your thoughts are drifting to the Saturday morning re-runs of *Flash Gordon*, or, more topically, to *Star Wars*, you're absolutely on course. And if you happen to be a Space Opera fan yourself then you're in for a big treat, 13 weeks in length, when the BBC socks it to you in the form of *Blake's Seven*, an all-action space-adventure series

featuring an interplanetary resistance group battling for survival against a totalitarian super-power.

The apparently golden timing of the series, opening more or less simultaneously with *Star Wars* and thus benefiting from its immense ballyhoo, might lead you to suspect that it had been rushed together in a flurry of plasterboard sets and costumes borrowed from *Dr Who*. Producer David Maloney is quick to squash that one: 'We've been in production in one way or another for about nine months. We were aware of *Star Wars*, of course, and knew it had hit the jackpot, but we never saw its success as being anything but a good omen.' He had even considered (briefly) allocating a chunk of his critically balanced budget to fly to New York to see the movie, but decided that the money would be better spent at home on such essentials as sets, costumes and the kind of superlative miniaturised models that good TV SF demands. 'It was the right decision. *Star Wars* is wide-screen, stereophonic-sound, massive-budget stuff and we never had any pretensions to compete with it. In any case, we've got something *Star Wars* doesn't have – time to develop our plots, characters ➤➤➤ 117



Blake (Gareth Thomas) and six of his Seven: Spaceship *Liberator* and (clockwise on the right) Cally (Jan Chappell); Gan (David Jackson); Vila (Michael Keating); Jenna (Sally Knyvette) and Avon (Paul Darrow)

Titles: Bob Blagden



Bob Blagden/Bob Konar



## CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

114 ← and action. They've got two hours, we've got 12.'

Of course 12 hours could offer dangerous licence to provide a verbose, ponderous serial, padded with bogus human drama – 'a kind of *Crossroads in Space*', as David Maloney puts it. Instead they've aimed for pace, excitement, flair and something of the reckless dash of a good comic strip. At the same time, while the plots are both futuristic and mind-stretching, every effort has gone into making them *credible*. 'We ask the viewer to accept from the word go that interplanetary space travel is possible and that *Blake's Seven* is set in a future which really could exist. Everything that happens, every situation, every set, must be accepted as being possible, if not probable.' For this reason, where it's been necessary to spend money buying credibility, it's been spent. The key set – the interior of the spaceship *Liberator* – is stunningly conceived and has the businesslike finish of reality.

Surprisingly for someone who has had a hand in a good deal of TV SF, Maloney says that the most difficult aspect of *Blake's Seven* has been making the leap of faith which allowed him, personally, to accept the credibility of space travel. 'In the second episode we have Blake and Co setting off on an eight-month trip to a penal planet. After that they roam about the Universe in a spaceship with the nonchalance one might have when stepping on a London bus. I found it really hard at first to accept this. But in due course I did.'

Perhaps he was assisted in making the leap by the unusual number of science-fiction fans in the production team. Script editor Chris Boucher is one, Robert Blagden, the graphics designer, is another, and so is principal set designer Roger Murray-Leach; while three of the four directors have SF experience varying from the inevitable *Dr Who* to subtler vehicles like *Doomwatch* and *Survivors*. However, it is not the *Dr Who* audience that they are after but something broader and more adult. 'The *Star Wars* audience?' I suggest tentatively. Maloney pauses, thinking no doubt of the rave reviews, the numerous repeats and spinoffs. 'Almost exactly that,' he says.

And if anyone should know about spinoff, it's the series'

author and creator Terry Nation, who has become a rich man because of his capacity to generate bright ideas and then capitalise on them. Once a gag writer for Tony Hancock, he fell out with the ill-starred comedian and took the opportunity to work on the first series of *Dr Who*. Its early episodes were disastrous and, if the series was to avoid television's mammoth scrapheap, he realised that something boldly original had to be injected into it. And thus were born the Daleks, and an almost eternal slot for the *Tardis* and its occupants.

Terry Nation's been working on *Blake's Seven* for two years, after realising that what was missing from television was a really corking adventure yarn set against the limitless backdrop of interplanetary space. To allow the maximum room to move in exploiting scientific concepts and technology he cunningly refused to locate the adventure in any specific point in space or time, setting it in 'the third century of the second calendar'.

It's thus up to the viewer to place the series in whatever time or place he pleases. It's basically a rather gloomy future though, with a near-omnipotent

bureaucracy stifling all creative endeavour, filling air and water with tranquillising drugs, ruthlessly eliminating dissidents, either by murder or shipping them off to some planetary equivalent of Botany Bay. The only thread of optimism comes from Blake's raffish band of convicts, thieves and eccentrics, who escape the Federation Police and commandeer a spaceship of their own. To say much more would be to spoil the fun, but one can add that a member of the 'seven' in his or her own right is an intelligent talking computer known as ZEN. At the time of our interview its physical appearance hadn't been definitely decided, but there seemed to be a general feeling that its most likely manifestation would be as a glittering metallic sphere. Terry wanted to know what I thought. Personally, I recommended arms and legs and a female voice – if you're going to communicate with a computer it may as well be nice to look at – but I suspect ZEN will end up looking spherical.

Curiously this series is his first full-blown excursion into science fiction, despite the fact that he has a deep, slightly obsessive interest in the future.

'Perhaps the unknown fascinates me most of all, and the greatest of all unknowns is the future. Frankly, I'm a bit pessimistic about it, I'm afraid. Man can't keep getting away with things the way he does at present, and I suspect he's in for a bad time in the nearish future.' What kind of 'bad time'? 'Well, not war necessarily, but perhaps some ecological disaster – like the virus that knocked out civilisation in *The Survivors*. Also I'm not entirely convinced that scientists have their latest developments under control. You know – genetic engineering, nuclear weaponry and [looking at me rather meaningfully] computers. Anyway, whatever trouble we fall into you can be sure of one thing – it will be of our own making.'

But, I asked, won't there always be *Blake's Seven* or their equivalents around to help out? Terry Nation nods vigorously: 'There'd better be.' ●

Our writers: William Shawcross is working on a biography of Kissinger; Celia Haddon is an expert on girlish optimism, for her recent *Great Days* and *Jolly Days* is a survey of girls' school songs; Robert Lacey wrote *Majesty*; Dr Christopher Evans is a psychologist and computer scientist.



Terry Nation: 'Perhaps the unknown fascinates me most of all... the greatest of all unknowns is the future'



**7.15 pm**

## **Blake's Seven**

The second of a new space adventure series in 13 episodes.

*Space Fall*

by TERRY NATION

starring

Gareth Thomas



**Sally Knyvette**

**Paul Darrow, David Jackson**

**Michael Keating**

with

**Glyn Owen, Leslie Schofield**

Blake and his companions are on the prison space transporter bound for Cygnus Alpha. But Blake has no intention of spending the rest of his life as a convict on a penal planet.

Blake .....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Avon.....PAUL DARROW

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING

Gan.....DAVID JACKSON

Leylan.....GLYN OWEN

Raiker.....LESLIE SCHOFIELD

Artix.....NORMAN TIPTON

Teague.....DAVID HAYWARD

Krell.....BRETT FORREST

Nova.....TOM KELLY

Dainer.....MICHAEL MACKENZIE

Garton.....BILL WESTON

Wallace.....CLINTON MORRIS

Series created by TERRY NATION

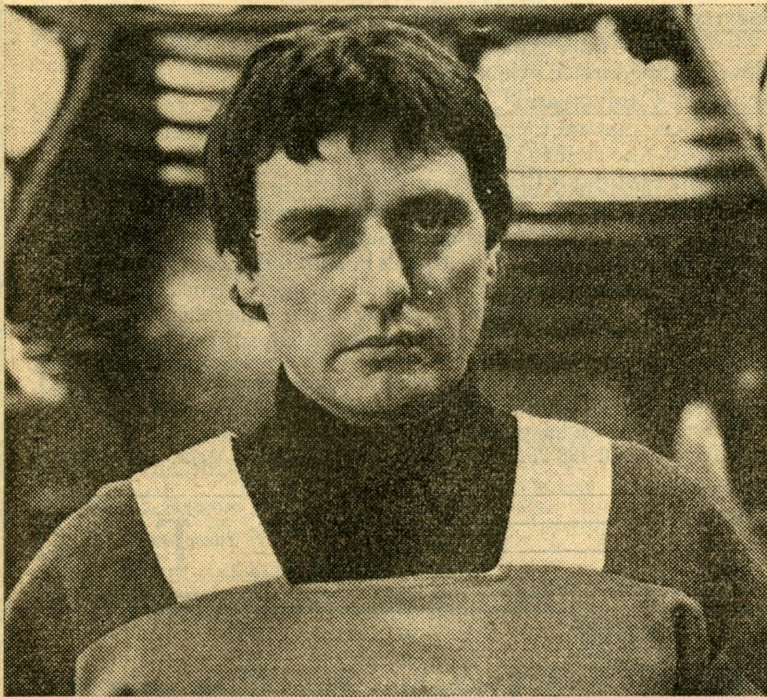
Script editor CHRIS BOUCHER

Designer ROGER MURRAY-LEACH

Producer DAVID MALONEY

Director PENNANT ROBERTS





*Avon (Paul Darrow) faces unexpected temptation on board Liberator in this week's episode of the space adventure series Blake's Seven: 7.15*



**7.15-8.10**

## **Blake's Seven**

The third of a new space adventure series in 13 episodes.

*Cygnus Alpha*

by TERRY NATION

starring

**Gareth Thomas, Sally Knyvette**

**Paul Darrow, Michael Keating**

**David Jackson**

with **Brian Blessed, Glyn Owen**

In the alien spaceship, which they have named *Liberator*, Blake, Jenna and Avon plan to free the prisoners held on Cygnus Alpha.

Blake.....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Avon.....PAUL DARROW

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING

Gan.....DAVID JACKSON

Vargas.....BRIAN BLESSED

Leylan.....GLYN OWEN

Artix.....NORMAN TIPTON

Kara.....PAMELA SALEM

Laran.....ROBERT RUSSELL

Arco.....PETER CHILDS

Selman.....DAVID RYALL

Zen.....PETER TUDDENHAM

Series created by TERRY NATION

Music by DUDLEY SIMPSON

Script editor CHRIS BOUCHER

Designer ROBERT BERK

Producer DAVID MALONEY

Director VERE LORRIMER



# 7.15-8.10

## Blake's Seven

The fourth of a new space adventure series in 13 episodes.

*Time Squad*

by TERRY NATION

starring

**Gareth Thomas, Sally Knyvette**

**Paul Darrow, Jan Chappell**

**Michael Keating**

**David Jackson**

On their way to attack the Federation communications complex on the planet Saurian Major, Blake and his crew discover a mysterious projectile drifting in space and take it on board the *Liberator*.

Blake.....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Avon.....PAUL DARROW

Cally.....JAN CHAPPELL

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING

Gan.....DAVID JACKSON

Zen.....PETER TUDDENHAM

Aliens.....TONY SMART

MARK MCBRIDE, FRANK HENSON

Series created by TERRY NATION

Script editor CHRIS BOUCHER

Designer ROGER MURRAY-LEACH

Producer DAVID MALONEY

Director PENNANT ROBERTS



# 7.15-8.10

## Blake's Seven

The fifth of a new space adventure series in 13 episodes.

*The Web* by TERRY NATION

starring

**Gareth Thomas, Sally Knyvette**

**Paul Darrow, Jan Chappell**

**Michael Keating, David Jackson**

Blake and his companions discover that Cally, their new crew member, has sabotaged the *Liberator*. Apparently out of control, the ship plunges on into uncharted space.

Blake.....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Avon.....PAUL DARROW

Cally.....JAN CHAPPELL

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING

Gan.....DAVID JACKSON

Zen.....PETER TUDDENHAM

Saymon.....RICHARD BEALE

Geela.....ANIA MARSON

Novara.....MILES FOTHERGILL

Decimas.....DEEP ROY, GILDA COHEN

ISMET HASSAM, MARCUS POWELL

MOLLY TWEEDLEY, WILLIE SHEARA

Series created by TERRY NATION

Script editor CHRIS BOUCHER

Designer MARTIN COLLINS

Producer DAVID MALONEY

Director MICHAEL E. BRIANT



# 7.15 Blake's Seven

The sixth of a new space adventure series in 13 episodes.

*Seek-Locate-Destroy*

by TERRY NATION

starring

**Gareth Thomas, Sally Knyvette**

**Paul Darrow, Jan Chappell**

**Michael Keating, David Jackson**

with

**Stephen Greif, Jacqueline Pearce**

Stepping up his war against the Federation, Blake plans to steal the message decoder from a top security installation on the planet Centero. But things go badly wrong . . .

Blake.....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Avon.....PAUL DARROW

Cally.....JAN CHAPPELL

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING



Gan.....DAVID JACKSON

Zen.....PETER TUDDENHAM

Travis.....STEPHEN GREIF

Servalan.....JACQUELINE PEARCE

Rontaine.....PETER MILES

Bercol.....JOHN BRYANS

Escon.....IAN CULLEN

Prell.....PETER CRAZE

Rai.....IAN OLIVER

Eldon.....ASTLEY JONES

Series created by TERRY NATION

Music by DUDLEY SIMPSON

Script editor CHRIS BOUCHER

Designer ROBERT BERK

Producer DAVID MALONEY

Director VERE LORRIMER



# Magnificent 'Seven'?

I cannot agree with John Hall's insipid REVIEW (14-20 January) of *Blake's Seven*; my wife and I both found the second episode (9 January BBC1) very gripping.

Our only complaint was the clothes of the boarding party. Surely a spacesuit was needed to go through such a flimsy connecting tube and into a strange abandoned spacecraft?

John A. Jones  
Kettering, Northants

## More realism, please

Having watched the second episode of *Blake's Seven*, I felt that I had to write and ask when the series will be moved to the children's slot on Saturday mornings.

Spacecraft that billow clouds of smoke all drifting upwards; men walking with great ease along a flexible tube, all this while in space!

A little more time spent watching the moon take-off and the walk in space by the Americans would have paid off in a little more realism.

Derek R. Smith  
Harold Hill, Essex

DAVID MALONEY, Producer, 'Blake's Seven' replies:

*The tube connecting the space-ships in episode two only looked flimsy, it was double-skinned and pressurised, and those going through it carried emergency breathing apparatus in case the abandoned space-ship should contain unbreathable atmosphere. The 'men walking with great ease' were treading the specially treated strip and their feet never left it. The spacecraft that billowed smoke upwards was meant to be still in the planet's atmosphere before the rear rockets operated to power the ship into space.*

## Dr Who's OK

I write concerning the REVIEW by John Hall, and in particular the criticism of *Dr Who*; 'overlarge casts of undeveloped characters, reeling at each twist of an over-worked plot'. Of course Mr Hall is entitled to his opinion. But if the show is as bad as he would have us believe, why do the BBC waste money on it? Why has it been going for over 15 years, surviving four changes of the title role? And why has the show an audience of in excess of 11 million?

Obviously Mr Hall must

have mixed up *Dr Who* with something else he saw - on Rutland Weekend Television perhaps? For what he describes is not what I and 11 million others see when we watch *Dr Who*...

J. C. Bain  
Hatfield, Herts

## 'Sci-fi' - ugh!

Regarding John Hall's excellent piece on science fiction or SF in films and TV, may I just say how refreshing it was *not* to see that horrid term 'sci-fi' (ugh!) used. Philip Jenkinson please note...

David A. Hardy  
Birmingham



# 7.15-8.10

## Blake's Seven

The seventh of a new space adventure series in 13 episodes.

*Mission to Destiny*

by TERRY NATION

starring

**Gareth Thomas, Sally Knyvette**

**Paul Darrow, Jan Chappell**

**Michael Keating, David Jackson**

with **Beth Morris**

**Barry Jackson, Stephen Tate**

The crippled spaceship *Ortega* presents Blake and his companions with a series of mysteries. Who murdered the pilot and sabotaged the controls? What happened to the crew and why? For Avon and Cally the answers become a matter of life and death.

Blake.....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Avon.....PAUL DARROW

Cally.....JAN CHAPPELL

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING

Gan.....DAVID JACKSON

Zen.....PETER TUDDENHAM

Kendall.....BARRY JACKSON

Sara.....BETH MORRIS

Mandrian.....STEPHEN TATE

Sonheim.....NIGEL HUMPHREYS

Levett.....KATE COLERIDGE

Grovane.....CARL FORGIONE

Pasco.....JOHN LEESON

Rafford.....BRIAN CAPRON

Dortmunn.....STUART FELL

Series created by TERRY NATION

Music by DUDLEY SIMPSON

Script editor CHRIS BOUCHER

Designer MARTIN COLLINS

Producer DAVID MALONEY

Director PENNANT ROBERTS



**7.15-8.10**

## **Blake's Seven**

The eighth of a new space adventure series in 13 episodes.

*Duel* by TERRY NATION

starring

**Gareth Thomas, Sally Knyvette**

**Paul Darrow, Jan Chappell**

**Michael Keating, David Jackson**

with

**Stephen Greif, Isla Blair**

The flight of Federation pursuit ships commanded by Travis finally succeed in trapping the *Liberator*.

Blake.....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Avon.....PAUL DARROW

Cally.....JAN CHAPPELL

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING

Gan.....DAVID JACKSON

Zen.....PETER TUDDENHAM

Travis.....STEPHEN GREIF

Sinofar.....ISLA BLAIR

Giroc.....PATSY SMART

Mutoid.....CAROL ROYLE

Series created by TERRY NATION

Title music by DUDLEY SIMPSON

Script editor CHRIS BOUCHER

Designer ROGER MURRAY-LEACH

Producer DAVID MALONEY

Director DOUGLAS CAMFIELD



**7.15-8.10**

## **Blake's Seven**

The ninth of a new space adventure series in 13 episodes.

*Project Avalon*

by **TERRY NATION**

starring

**Gareth Thomas, Sally Knyvette**

**Paul Darrow, Jan Chappell**

**Michael Keating, David Jackson**

with

**Stephen Greif, Jacqueline Pearce**

Travis has devised a plan to destroy Blake and capture the *Liberator*. Even Servalan believes it cannot fail . . .

Blake.....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Avon.....PAUL DARROW

Cally.....JAN CHAPPELL

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING

Gan.....DAVID JACKSON

Zen.....PETER TUDDENHAM

Travis.....STEPHEN GREIF

Servalan.....JACQUELINE PEARCE

Avalon.....JULIA VIDLER

Chevner.....DAVID BAILIE

Mutoid.....GLYNIS BARBER

Scientist.....JOHN BAKER

Terloc.....JOHN ROLFE

Guards

DAVID STERNE, MARK HOLMES

Series created by **TERRY NATION**

Music by **DUDLEY SIMPSON**

Script editor **CHRIS BOUCHER**

Designer **CHRIS PEMSEL**

Producer **DAVID MALONEY**

Director **MICHAEL E. BRIANT**



# 7.15 Blake's Seven

The tenth of a new space adventure series in 13 episodes.

*Breakdown* by TERRY NATION

starring

**Gareth Thomas, Sally Knyvette**

**Paul Darrow, Jan Chappell**

**Michael Keating, David Jackson**

**with Julian Glover**

The implant in Gan's brain was designed to limit aggressive impulses but when it malfunctions ...

Blake.....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Avon.....PAUL DARROW

Cally.....JAN CHAPPELL

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING

Gan.....DAVID JACKSON

Zen.....PETER TUDDENHAM

Kayn.....JULIAN GLOVER

Farren.....IAN THOMPSON

Renor.....CHRISTIAN ROBERTS

Series created by TERRY NATION

Music by DUDLEY SIMPSON

Script editor CHRIS BOUCHER

Designer PETER BRACHACKI

Producer DAVID MALONEY

Director VERE LORRIMER



# 7.15 Blake's Seven

The 11th of a new space adventure series in 13 episodes.

*Bounty* by TERRY NATION

starring

**Gareth Thomas, Sally Knyvette**

**Paul Darrow, Jan Chappell**

**Michael Keating, David Jackson**

President Sarkoff is a prisoner of the Federation. While Blake and Cally are trying to rescue him the *Liberator* answers a distress call and runs into trouble . . .

Blake.....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Avon.....PAUL DARROW

Cally.....JAN CHAPPELL

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING

Gan.....DAVID JACKSON

Zen.....PETER TUDDENHAM

Sarkoff.....T. P. MCKENNA

Tyce.....CARINTHIA WEST

Cheney.....MARK YORK

Tarvin.....MARC ZUBER

Amagon guard.....DERRICK BRANCHE

Series created by TERRY NATION

Music by DUDLEY SIMPSON

Script editor CHRIS BOUCHER

Designer ROGER MURRAY-LEACH

Producer DAVID MALONEY

Director PENNANT ROBERTS



**7.15-8.10**

## **Blake's Seven**

The 12th of a new space adventure series in 13 episodes.

*Deliverance* by TERRY NATION

starring

**Gareth Thomas, Sally Knyvette**

**Paul Darrow, Jan Chappell**

**Michael Keating, David Jackson**

with

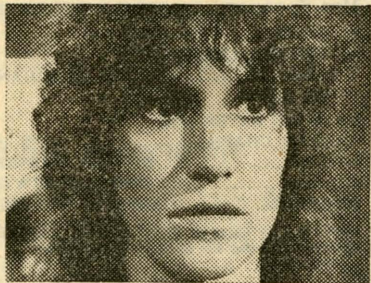
**Stephen Greif, Jacqueline Pearce**

A spaceship crashes on the planet Cephlon. When the crew of the *Liberator* look for survivors they find their own survival threatened.

Blake.....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Avon.....PAUL DARROW



Cally.....JAN CHAPPELL

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING

Gan.....DAVID JACKSON

Zen.....PETER TUDDENHAM

Travis.....STEPHEN GREIF

Servalan.....JACQUELINE PEARCE

Ensor.....TONY CAUNTER

Meegat.....SUZAN FARMER

Maryatt.....JAMES LISTER

Series created by TERRY NATION

Music by DUDLEY SIMPSON

Script editor CHRIS BOUCHER

Designer ROBERT BERK

Producer DAVID MALONEY

Director MICHAEL E. BRIANT



**7.5-7.55**

# **Blake's Seven**

The last episode of the present series.

*Orac* by TERRY NATION

starring

**Gareth Thomas, Sally Knyvette**

**Paul Darrow, Jan Chappell**

**Michael Keating, David Jackson**

**with Stephen Greif**

**Jacqueline Pearce, Derek Farr**

The Federation want *Orac*. Blake must get to it first. But what is it . . . ?

Blake.....GARETH THOMAS

Jenna.....SALLY KNYVETTE

Avon.....PAUL DARROW

Cally.....JAN CHAPPELL

Vila.....MICHAEL KEATING

Gan.....DAVID JACKSON

Zen.....PETER TUDDENHAM

Travis.....STEPHEN GREIF

Servalan.....JACQUELINE PEARCE

Ensor.....DEREK FARR

Phibians.....JAMES MUIR, PAUL KIDD

Series created by TERRY NATION

Music by DUDLEY SIMPSON

Script editor CHRIS BOUCHER

Designer MARTIN COLLINS

Producer DAVID MALONEY

Director VERE LORRIMER



# Taking to Blake

May I put in a word of encouragement to all those concerned with *Blake's Seven* (2 January-27 March BBC1). Most critics didn't like it, but many of them dislike science fiction in general and space opera in particular, so that was not unexpected. SF fans are on the whole glad to see anything vaguely connected with the genre on the screen, but many of them may have been put off by the appalling first episode. However, rapid subsequent improvement has turned *Blake's Seven* into an amusing, colourful and fast-moving entertainment, the best of its type since *Star Trek*.

The special effects could be improved – see the film *Dark Star* for what can be achieved on a relatively limited budget – but the characters are strong, particularly Avon and Vila. I'd hate to think I'd never hear another sarcastic exchange between the pair of them.

While I'd like to see something with the class of *Out of the Unknown* some time soon, there is a gap between that superb anthology and the infantile inanities and abysmal special effects of *Dr Who* which *Blake's Seven* fills very nicely . . .

(Miss) S. Booth  
Sheffield

## Punchbag Cally?

Having watched *Blake's Seven* from the beginning I must protest that the only non-Earth member of the crew – not counting Zen the computer – seems to have been introduced into the series only to be used as a punchbag in almost every episode.

Whenever I have been able to tune in, poor Cally is being knocked cold, burned, blown up or almost strangled. What a way to treat a lady! . . .

John Burrows  
Barking, Essex

# The last of Blake

What a wonderful series *Blake's Seven* (2 January-27 March BBC1) was. I enjoyed every second of it.

After such a surprising end, and with Travis still remaining, I certainly hope the BBC will be showing another series...

Alison Gilbert

Manchester

## No more?

So the *Liberator* has exploded, and *Blake's Seven* are no more . . . or are they? I do hope that my eyes were deceiving me, and that I shall see more of this most enjoyable space adventure.

(Miss) S. M. Debney

Bolton

## With a bang

So *Blake's Seven* ends with a bang and not a whimper. What else can the BBC have in store? Arthur Billitt buried in a collapsing greenhouse? Magnus Magnusson attacked by a black chair? The Germans winning the war in *Secret Army*? . . .

Farewell, *Blake's Seven*; welcome back, *Angels*. Wait, though – will a mystery epidemic wipe out the entire cast in the last episode?

J. E. Miller

Southampton

We have received over 100 letters following the end of *Blake's Seven*, nearly all of them in praise – although many are puzzled, like Miss Debney, by the ending. They will have to wait for the second series for an explanation, however. – LETTERS EDITOR



## 2.35 Blake's Seven

A repeat showing of the story of *Orac* by TERRY NATION, starring  
**Gareth Thomas, Sally Knyvette  
Paul Darrow, Jan Chappell  
Michael Keating, David Jackson  
with Stephen Greif  
Jacqueline Pearce, Derek Farr**  
The Federation want Orac. Blake  
must get to it first. But what is  
Orac?

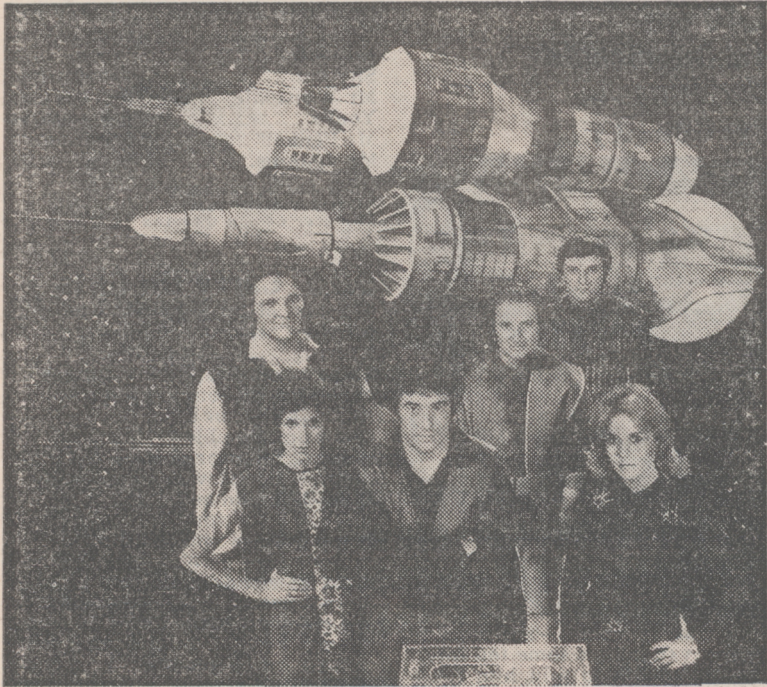
Blake.....	GARETH THOMAS
Jenna.....	SALLY KNYVETTE
Avon.....	PAUL DARROW
Cally.....	JAN CHAPPELL
Vila.....	MICHAEL KEATING
Gan.....	DAVID JACKSON
Zen.....	PETER TUDDENHAM
Ensor.....	DEREK FARR
Travis.....	STEPHEN GREIF
Servalan.....	JACQUELINE PEARCE
Young Ensor.....	TONY CAUNTER
Meegat.....	SUZAN FARMER
Maryatt.....	JAMES LISTER

Series created by TERRY NATION

Music by DUDLEY SIMPSON

Producer DAVID MALONEY. Directors

MICHAEL E. BRIANT, VERE LORRIMER



*The team set out again, this time in search of the mysterious Orac. Another chance to see a thrilling space adventure, Blake's Seven: 2.35*